



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
VIRTUAL FELLOWS PROGRAM  
PROJECT DESCRIPTION – EUR/WE**



This project seeks a Virtual Fellow to serve with the **Office of Western Europe, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs (EUR/WE)** as a **T-Tip Analyst**.

**Fellow Location:** The Fellow will serve virtually and will not be physically located at the Department of State.

**Project Name:** T-TIP: Separating Facts from Fiction

**Project Description:** The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP) is a trade agreement currently being negotiated between the United States and the European Union. The negotiations aim to remove trade barriers (tariffs, unnecessary regulations, restrictions on investment) in a wide range of economic sectors in order to make it easier to buy and sell goods and services across the Atlantic. When completed, some predict T-TIP will benefit the United States by \$130 billion and the EU by \$163 billion annually, as well as contribute almost \$140 billion to the world economy.

Despite its economic promise, T-TIP topics such as Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), consumer and investment protection, and environmental standards are not always well understood by the public and are subject to misinformation campaigns by T-TIP opponents. While the State Department and our embassies and consulates in Europe are actively working to promote T-TIP and make the agreement as transparent as possible, increasing awareness and support of T-TIP is still an ongoing process and more effort is needed to inform public opinion.

The Fellow would research some of the most contentious issues in T-TIP negotiations. What are the facts behind these issues? What about them drives anxiety and concern in the United States and EU? What impact will T-TIP have on each issue? We are especially interested in identifying possible changes directly benefitting the consumer (such as cost reductions or improved availability) and those that benefit companies with no negative impact on consumers (like mutual recognition of near-identical standards), as well as identifying potential pitfalls.

**Potential Fellow Taskings:**

- Research paper focusing on T-TIP topics selected during initial discussions with the Fellow;
- One-page, side-by-side comparison of facts and data with current public perception;
- Data analysis demonstrating how Fellow came to the above conclusions.

**Background:** For further information on T-TIP see:

- [United States Trade Representative \(USTR\) T-TIP;](#)
- [US Mission to the European Union \(EU\) T-TIP;](#)
- [Department of State \(DOS\) Robert D. Hormats, April 23, 2013 on T-TIP;](#)
- [Wikipedia Article on T-TIP.](#)

**Program Requirements:** The precepts of the Virtual Fellows Program call for Fellows to have a high degree of administrative, professional, or technical knowledge/experience and a minimum of five years of professional experience that is directly applicable to the assigned task.

**Project-specific Knowledge, Skills, or Abilities:**

- Academic or professional experience in international relations, the economics of international trade, science and technology, and public affairs;
- Extensive experience in data analysis;
- Research background strongly preferred;
- Working knowledge of trade agreements and how they work;
- Concrete understanding of T-TIP.

**Clearance:** The Fellow must be a U.S. citizen and must receive a Public Trust determination prior to starting his/her service. The Virtual Fellows Program staff will work with the accepted candidate to obtain the Public Trust determination. (Note: A candidate is NOT required to have a Public Trust determination prior to applying for this project.)

**Remuneration:** The Virtual Fellow will be appointed to the federal civil service as an intermittent, unpaid consultant. The Department assumes no responsibility for providing any salary or benefits to the Fellow in connection with his/her participation in the Program.